

## ***PRESIDENT'S COLUMN***

By Mark Bartlett, President

I am very excited to be your Friends' President for the next year. I have loved public libraries since I was in grade school in New Brunswick, Canada. Here in the lovely Tempe, Arizona, I'm very happy to be part of a public library that is such an integral part of this city. I started with the Friends of Tempe Public Library in 2000 and have enjoyed helping out in various ways: taking care of the website, sorting and pricing books, hauling boxes at the twice-annual book sales, being a board member, and most recently, serving as the board's secretary from 2002-03.

Volunteering with the Friends is fun and rewarding. It's a great way to meet other residents of Tempe and the Valley of the Sun and it's a reminder that we are all part of a community. The Friends raise money that supports the library's many programs, services, and collections. No surprise here: the funds we raise are becoming even more critical to the library in these

times of fiscal restraint.

In this Fall issue of the newsletter, you'll hear about the library's very busy summer, the Childrens' Summer Reading Program, the Sweet Tomatoes-Friends fundraiser in July, our October 25<sup>th</sup> Booksale, and much more. We are welcoming three new board members to the group: Lyle Starkey, Jean Stengel and Maria Purchase. We still have two vacancies on the board... if you are reading this and thinking, 'hey, I want to volunteer', then please give us a call at (480) 350-5599 or send an email to friendstempe@yahoo.com. During

### ***Friends Book Sale***

**Saturday  
October 25  
9:00-10:00am  
Members Only  
10:00-2:00pm  
General Public  
Welcome!**

our budget planning this spring, the Friends' board committed to generating \$2000 more revenue than last year. (Note: see Janet Woolum's column on how we put the money we raise back into the library.) Our goal for 2003-04 is \$32,000. We're always exploring how to do this: yard sales, restaurant fund-raisers, bigger book sales, Friends' book bags

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## ***ABOVE THE STACKS***

by Teri Metros,  
Library Administrator

### ***Another Busy Year***

With summer coming to an end, it's a good time to reflect on the past year at the Tempe Public Library. FY 2002-03 (which ended on June 30) was a year of accomplishment for the library, one that was characterized by increased public usage and significant technological change.

About this time last year, we were in the process of converting to our new Millennium automated library system. This came about when our old Inlex system reached the end of its useful life and was no longer being developed by the vendor. Almost every aspect of the library's operations was impacted by the arrival of Millennium. Bringing the new system up was a very complex process, one that required a great

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deal of planning and cooperation between library staff members and the City's Information Technology unit. The first few weeks when we went "live" on the system were a true adventure for both patrons and staff members. During our first week on the new system, one could count on the system crashing at about 4:00 p.m. each day, resulting in long check-out lines and delays for our users. Fortunately for us, most of our users were very patient and understanding. With the help of our IT staff and the vendor, we were able to work out the problems and implement new features throughout the year. These included delivery of notices by e-mail, a 24 hour telephone renewal system, and the implementation of a very powerful and user-friendly online catalog system. We are particularly proud of the Millennium catalog and have received many positive comments from our users, as well as from librarians throughout the United States. The "My Millennium" feature allows users to see a list of the items they currently have checked out, renew materials online, view fines on their record, change selected information on their user records, and even save preferred searches. For example, a user can tell Millennium to send an e-mail to them every time a new book on a particular topic is added to the collection. Since there is no such thing these days as a "turnkey"

system, all of these enhancements came about through the efforts of a talented team of library staff members who were devoted to bringing the new system to life. In addition to the staff, our users also played a significant role in bringing the new system to life. We listened to their feedback and used it to modify and improve the system.

In the midst of all this change, we continued to be one of the busiest libraries in the Valley as demonstrated by our usage figures. During FY 2002-2003, we had 1,037,705 people come through our doors and we checked out 1,311,966 items, an increase of nearly 4% from the previous year. Our staff responded to 105,000 requests for information at our

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three public service desks. Our public access computers were also in great demand and were used over 159,000 times to access the Internet, MS Office products, and other computer-based information resources. The Library's public programs were also highly attended. The 933 programs that we held last year were attended by 35,196 people, an increase of nearly 2% from the previous year.

Needless to say, we definitely had a busy and productive year. Our users played a critical role in our successes and we want to thank them for their ongoing support of library programs and services.

## ***Tough Times for Libraries***

Libraries throughout the country are going through some very trying times these days. The events of September 11, 2001 and the subsequent serious impact on the nation's economy have particularly impacted libraries.

Declines in sales tax revenues and the resulting need for increased public safety services have impacted municipal budgets. Unfortunately, the public library has often suffered. The Denver Public Library, rated as the #1 public library in the country, has had to close its impressive central library one day a week. The Seattle Public Library recently shut down for a week and will do so again in the coming year. If you've read the local newspapers during the past year, you've probably heard about the budget challenges that the City of Tempe faced. Although budgets were reduced, the careful and conservative fiscal policies which the City has followed for many years has allowed the Library to maintain its public services and hours of operation. During these challenging times, the support of the Friends of the Tempe Public Library is incredibly important to us. Friends funds completely funded our children's summer reading program, purchased books for our outreach center at the



Escalante Multigenerational Center and for the East Valley campus of the Thomas J. Pappas school for homeless children. The Friends also funded many worthwhile programs for our adult users. When I speak to groups, I am often asked by those attending about how they can support the Library. Without exception, my first response is to join the Friends of the Tempe Public Library and become an active member by assisting them in their fundraising efforts. The Friends and the Tempe Public Library staff work hand in hand on a daily basis to bring quality library services and programs to the Tempe community. If you are currently a Friends member, we wish to thank you, and if you are not currently a member, I hope that you will consider joining the team.

# LOOK!

## Friends Book

### Donation Boxes

- ♥ Whole Foods 5120 S. Rural Road (NW corner of Baseline and S. Rural Rd.)
- ♥ Basha's 3115 S. McClintock Drive (NE Corner of McClintock and Southern)
- ♥ Safeway 1515 E. Elliot (SW corner of McClintock and Elliot)

## Fall Book Sale

The Friends Fall Book Sale will be held on Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2003 in the Library's lower level Program Room. The sale will begin with a special members only sale from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. It will be open to the general public from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The sale provides a great opportunity to get an early start on holiday shopping. Shoppers will



find a wide range of materials including holiday books, children's books, compact disc recordings, and paperback and hardback fiction and non-fiction books at bargain prices. Two new categories, Self-Help and Animal and Native American art prints, will also be featured. The Friends will be joined by members of the Tempe Historical Society who will be on hand to sell merchandise at reduced prices from the Tempe Historical Museum Gift Shop including cards, jewelry, toys, and other gift items.

Community members who wish to become a member of the Friends may purchase a membership on the day of the sale or join by completing a membership application at the Library or via the Friends Web site at [www.tempe.gov/library/friends](http://www.tempe.gov/library/friends).

## Summer Fun-Raiser

**By Janet Wollum, Treasurer**

The Friends of the Tempe Public Library held a fund raiser in July as part of the Sweet Tomatoes Community Spirit program. The "Family Fun Raiser" was held at the Sweet Tomatoes, 1410 E. Southern Ave., Tempe, and raised \$126 for the Friends.

The event was held Thursday, July 24, 2003, on-site at the Tempe restaurant. Flyers about the event were mailed to FTPL members, emailed to Tempe city employees, and made available at the Melaine Corrao Book Corner in the Tempe library. FTPL supporters enjoyed a great meal at Sweet Tomatoes and 20% of the sales were donated to the Friends.

This and many more fund raising events involving members are in the planning stages for the upcoming year. Your Board of Directors will be organizing another Sweet Tomatoes "fun-raiser" in the spring, so look for your flyer in the mail or at the Spring Book Sale. This is a fun and easy way to raise money for the various programs your Friends group sponsors throughout the year. Thank you for your continued support.

***The Friends web page has moved! Visit us at:***

<http://community.tempe.gov/libraryfriends/>

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(<http://community.tempe.gov/libraryfriends/bookbag.htm>), presentations to other community groups, corporate sponsorship, and more. If you have an idea, please let us know. How can you help right now?!?!? DONATE, DO-NATE, donate! If you have magazines, books, CDs, cassettes, videos, and even some old LP records (remember those?), drop them off at the library's circulation desk or the loading dock (rear of the library). We also have three drop off boxes (see addresses on page 3) in convenient locations here in Tempe.

A few final notes for this Fall newsletter... the Friends' board took the plunge and purchased a computer and printer this June. We now maintain our membership database, correspondence, financial information, and website.... ALL from one desktop! Many thanks go to library staff who have helped us over the years with our automation and printing needs. Secondly, Friends' book bags are back in stock and are for sale the circulation desk ... a bargain at \$10 each. Thirdly, warm thanks to three board members who finished their terms this past June: Shirley Oullette (membership coordinator 2002-03), Audrey Kedsle (treasurer 2002-03), and Joyce Hinrichs, a long-time Friends volunteer and two-term President (2000-02).

Thank you all for your support. Thank you for renewing your memberships. We'll be seeing you throughout the year and...oh yes, seeing you bargain hunters at the October 25<sup>th</sup> sale!

# News from the Youth Library

**By Sherry Warren,  
Youth Library Supervisor**

## ***A Busy Year, A Busy Summer***

This has been a very successful year. We presented 582 programs serving 24,165 children and parents. The Friends sponsored many of these programs. With the advent of a lean economy, the Friends support has been a lifesaver. It has allowed us to continue to provide quality programs within a vital, beautiful Youth Library. The inclusion of the Family Corner play area has been an attraction and a service that parents have appreciated. We have been told many times that this is the best library in the valley.

## ***Summer Reading Club***

It was a busy, noisy, bustling and exciting summer. We had 4,479 children participate and 2,496 completed the program. There were an incredible amount of completions this year. The Diamondbacks and the Arizona Republic were again major contributors to the county wide program. Through the generosity of the Friends, entertaining weekly programs were offered, volunteers received T-shirts, and each child completing the program received

a book as his/her last prize. The book has been instrumental in increasing the number of children who complete the program. Books are expensive but well worth the cost.

## ***Teen Summer Reading Club***

839 teens enrolled in the "Great Books Make Great Movies" reading program with 327 completing. The teen program was sponsored by the Friends, Harkins Theater, Sonic and the Wildflower Bread Company. The Friends paid for the registrations forms, teen reading logs and publicity flyers. Tempe Transit continued to grant bus passes, something that provided a strong incentive for teens to visit the library.

## ***Looking Ahead***

Tempe Public Library is partnering with the East Valley Poets, a branch of the Arizona State Poetry Society, to present a Middle School Poetry Workshop this fall. Registration is required for this free 4 week series of workshops which begins Sept 20. Students will learn to write various poetry forms and will have their poems published in an anthology. For more information, call the Youth Desk at 350-5522. The Middle School Poetry Workshop will also be offered next spring or summer.

# Online Book Club: DearReader.com

Kim Garza,  
Collection Management Librarian

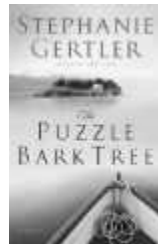


My motto is  
"So Many  
Books, So  
Little Time,"  
because I  
order thou-  
sands of books

a year for the library, but I personally only get to read about 150 books a year. Therefore, I love it when I find a new author who I can't put down. The Tempe Public Library subscribes to an online book club which provide excerpts of new books delivered to your email daily. Over the course of 5 days you can read about the first 20 pages of a book. During the last 2 years I have found several new books which I have thoroughly enjoyed reading, that I may not have given a second look at when they come into the library. There are currently 11 fiction and nonfiction clubs to join, and this is a **FREE** library service to our users. The best thing is, if you don't like that week's title, you can simply hit the delete key. To join, click on the button on our website, and pick your club(s) of choice.

The following titles I discovered thanks to DearReader.com (formerly Chapter a Day):

Gertler, Stephanie. *Puzzle Bark Tree*. G3844PU



Struggling in an unfulfilling marriage after an unhappy childhood, Grace is shocked by her distant parents' double suicide and her inheritance of a

lake cabin, where she meets a local fishing guide whose family history is bound to her own.

Hathaway, Robin. *Scarecrow*. Mystery H3637SC



Dr. Jo Banks blames herself for a patient's death, and flees her hospital job. She impulsively accepts a position as a visiting doctor to

a group of small hotels, and then becomes unwittingly involved in the murders of a group of itinerant farm workers.

Tracy, P. J. *Monkeewrench*. Mystery T7625MO



Grace McBride and the team at her software company are horrified when events in their murder mystery computer game are

replicated in the real world by a ruthless killer. This situation prompts them to analyze the game in order to anticipate the killer's next move.

Trobaugh, Augusta. *Sophie and the Rising Sun*. T8429SO



When Mr. Oto arrives in Salty Creek, Georgia, kind Miss Anne takes him in and widow Sophie rediscovers new

joy after meeting him, but the relationships are tested after the Japanese bomb Pearl Harbor and Mr. Oto's new life is besieged.

Ursu, Anne. *Spilling Clarence*. U8236SP



In Clarence, Minnesota, a smoky fire at the local pharmaceutical factory triggers a chemical spill and unleashes a bizarre and powerful drug

that unlocks all the memories—both good and bad—of the citizens of Clarence.

Willett, Marcia. *Week in Winter*. W7136WE






When Maudie Todhunter, the elderly owner of a charming farmhouse in Cornwell, decides to sell the family homestead, a family drama

unfolds, with old secrets bubbling to the surface.

# CONNECT WITH US!




## Tempe Public Library

<http://www.tempe.gov/library>

-  Access search engines
-  Link to recommended Web sites
-  Find out about library programs, hours and much more.


## Library Catalog

<http://catalog.tempe.gov>

-  Check library material availability
-  Renew library material and place holds **(My Millennium)**
-  View your borrowing record

## Magazines & Newspapers

<http://www.tempe.gov/library/perdir.htm>

-  Search for full-text articles with your Tempe Public Library card number as a password.

## Business Directories

<http://www.tempe.gov/library/libresource/electron.asp>

-  With Reference USA, search for detailed records on more than 12 million U.S. businesses and 120 million households.

**Questions? Call 480-350-5511**



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